



WindWriters



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SELZER HOSTS FIGHTER KITE CHALLENGE

The first (annual?) "No-T Fighter Kite Challenge" hosted by SJKF Director at Large Andy Selzer, was held on December 8th at Brandywine Creek State Park, and it sure lived up to its name. The strangest challenge came at the end of the event (more on that later), but the first challenge of the day was simply getting into the park! See there was a maintenance crew working on some power lines about 100 feet from the entrance. They were telling everybody they had to go out to the highway and come back around to the same entrance, but from the opposite direction. Problem was, once you drove the 5 or 6 miles around the circumference of the park, you were greeted by another crew working on the road surface, who told you to go back around the way you came!! As it turns out, 11 of us made it through the gauntlet, and took to the skies with our fighter kites.

After an hour or so of warming up, chatting and waiting to see who else would make it through the obstacle course/entrance, we randomly picked numbers to see who would pair off for the opening round, then Head Judge Mike Dallmer Sr. called the combatants onto the field.

First up was SJKF President Scott E. Spencer vs. George Kineer. Both were flying (appropriately enough) No-T fighters. George gave up the first point of the day (a top touch) when he grounded out, but quickly came back for the second point after a wind shift. Scott took point three by driving George into the ground, then finished him off with a bottom touch. **SCORE: Spencer 3 - Kineer 1**

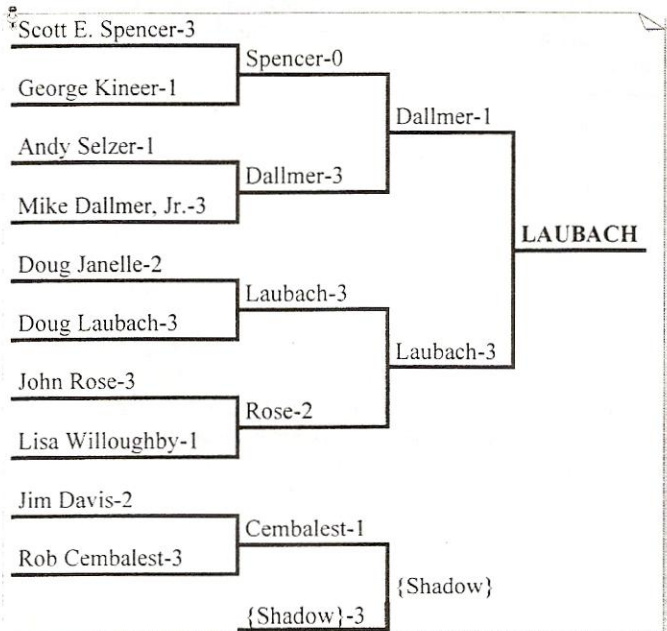
Next to take the field were Andy Selzer, flying one his prototype FRS fighters, and Mike Dallmer Jr with a yellow-&-black fighter of his own. Mike quickly grabbed the lead with a bottom



point, then followed it up with a hard fought top point. Not one to go down easy, Andy fought his way back by forcing Mike to ground out, but Mike sealed his victory with a long, swooping point from the top. **SCORE: Dallmer 3 - Selzer 1**

Doug Laubach and I faced off in Round 3, both flying Indians. Mine was made by Andy, Doug was flying a traditional tissue-&-bamboo kite. We opened with what turned out to be the longest point of the day, a bottom point. With our larger, slower Indians, we were both able to keep within 2 to 3 feet of the ground, dancing and jockeying for position. Doug baited me with quick, short climb, and I overflew his line, giving up the first point. The second point started with more dancing, and I was able to pull a quick 180° turn to tie things up, but Doug showed no mercy as he grabbed the 3rd point about 15 seconds later. I came back with the fourth point to even it back up, but suspected that it was more luck than skill. Doug confirmed my suspicions when he came up on me from below like a shark on a surfer, taking the 5th point and the match. **SCORE: Laubach 3 - Janelle 2**

Next up were Lisa Willoughby, flying an arrow-head shaped fighter vs. John Rose and his Lil Mistake fighter. John's been the man to beat in a lot of informal fighter events we've held, so it was no surprise when he began to swoop down for the first point of the match. What *was* a surprise was when he overshot Lisa's kite, finding himself in the vulnerable bottom position. Lisa, relatively new to fighters, showed herself a force to be reckoned with by quickly turning and diving for the kill, and an early lead. John came back for point two with a slow climbing tag from below, then took point three from above after a frenetic race to the top of the window. During the hotly contested 4th point, John came climbing fast, but Lisa drove her kite out of harm's way just in time, with only John's kite touching her line (Judge Dallmer ruled no point since the rules call for a line-to-line touch, not



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